

Quick Reference Guide – Care of I-131 Radioactive Therapy Inpatients

PRIOR to patient meeting <i>Release Criteria</i>	AFTER patient has met <i>Release Criteria</i> , been discharged, and readmitted
<p>Before the radioactive material is administered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete <i>Caring for Radioactive Therapy Patients</i> training in Learning Exchange, if you have not within the past 12 months - Order disposable food service - Complete any necessary room set up (put linens on bed, provide towels and washcloths, etc.) - Take vital signs and collect any necessary specimens - Remind the patient that nothing may leave the room unless checked by Radiation Safety, and therefore to minimize the amount of personal belongings brought into the room - Offer the patient a gown or pajamas so their clothes won't get contaminated; also offer them toiletries (toothpaste, shampoo, etc.) for the same reason <p>After the radioactive material is administered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Don personal protective equipment (PPE – disposable gloves, shoe covers, and gown) and your dosimetry badge before entering the patient's room - When leaving the room, remove the PPE and place it in the waste container at the door of the patient's room - Specimen collection should be avoided after administration unless absolutely necessary, but if a patient specimen must be collected, simply send it to Clinical Pathology without delay to be processed as with any other sample - Verify that disposable food service is being provided, and discard those items into the waste container in the room after use - Leave all trash, linens, discarded PPE etc. from the patient's room in the room. Contact VEHS Radiation Safety if trash or linen collection is needed more than once per day (e.g. if the patient vomits) - Ensure that any visitors to the patient comply with the Visitor Instructions posted on the door of the patient's room - Once the patient has met release criteria and been discharged, do not enter the patient's room until VEHS Radiation Safety staff have removed the "Caution – Radioactive Material" sign 	<p>If there is an indication that a patient recently underwent a radioactive therapy procedure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the patient's record to determine the radionuclide administered, and time elapsed since administration. If the record indicates Iodine 131 (I-131, NaI-131, MIBG) administered within the past week, proceed to step 2; otherwise for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - any other therapeutic radionuclides (e.g. Y-90 microspheres [Sirspheres, Therasphere], I-125 seed implants [prostate, mesh], Ra-223 [Xofigo]), or - I-131 administered more than one week earlier: <p>NO RADIOLOGICAL PRECAUTIONS ARE NEEDED. Simply provide patient care without regard to radioactivity.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. (If I-131 was administered within the past week): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete <i>Caring for Readmitted Radioactive Therapy Patients</i> training in Learning Exchange, if you have not within the past 12 months - Provide emergent care without regard to radioactivity - Contact the VEHS On Call (Emergency) pager [615/835-4965] and tell the VEHS responder to contact Radiation Safety - Order disposable food service - Don disposable gown, shoe covers, and gloves upon entering the patient's room; remove these items and place them in the waste container in the room when leaving the room - Place chux on the patient's bed when feasible - Collect and store patient trash (including staff gloves, shoe covers & gowns) and linens in the patient's room for pickup by VEHS - Patient specimens require no special handling or labeling; simply transfer to Clinical Pathology as with any other patient specimens - Coordinate with VEHS Radiation Safety staff for daily collection of patient trash and linens; contact VEHS Radiation Safety if more frequent collection is needed - Coordinate with VEHS Radiation Safety staff for decontamination of the patient room upon discharge and prior to cleaning by housekeeping staff

If you have questions or need further information, contact VEHS Radiation Safety at 615-322-2057, or after hours use the VEHS Emergency Pager 615-835-4965